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**Wise, John S.** *A Treatise on American Citizenship.* Pp. viii, 340. N. Y.  
Edward Thompson Company, 1906.

While this work was intended primarily by the author as a text-book on the law of citizenship, it is very evident from his preface that he hopes to appeal to many readers outside of the legal profession. Citizenship, in his opinion, is a subject which is "an indispensable part of the education of every man who makes pretension to a fair education and knowledge of the history of his country"; and "the present ignorance of our people, and the confusion in their apprehension of this subject would be something incredible in other countries."

Such a work as this is indeed timely, at a point in our history when we are for the first time attempting to govern as subjects remote and alien races. From now on the student of American history, if he is to understand our colonial affairs, must go into the law of citizenship. The author has given an excellent historical treatment of American citizenship, state and national, and a clear statement of the present status of the insular possessions in regard to citizenship. The discussion of how American citizenship may be acquired is too brief and incomplete. Both in this chapter and in the one dealing with the protection of citizens abroad the author could have obtained valuable material and suggestions from Van Dyne's work on this subject. These phases of citizenship are of great practical importance, and their scanty treatment is a serious fault in this work.

Fully a third of the book is devoted to an historical discussion and analysis of the Rights, Privileges and Immunities of the citizen, and it is evident that the author regarded this as the most important part of his subject. His method of treatment here is original, and is the most distinguishing feature of the work. On the historical side he emphasizes our obligations to the Dutch. His attempt at the classification and enumeration of the Rights, Privileges and Immunities granted or guaranteed to citizens by the United States has not been successful or profitable. His point of view in this enumeration is explained in his own words as follows: "These guarantees (of rights) were the necessary correlatives of the specific powers granted to the Federal government." In accordance with this principle he classifies the following as Rights:

To have an enumeration or census every ten years.

To uniform Federal laws of naturalization and bankruptcy throughout the United States.

To the creation and maintenance of a navy by the Federal government.

Many more instances of like character might be cited to illustrate the consequences of his method. It would be interesting to know by just what process a citizen would enforce his right to a census, every ten years, or to a Federal bankruptcy act, or to the creation and maintenance of a navy, in case Congress had not acted upon the powers delegated to it in these matters. Surely a right that cannot be enforced and protected by a court ought not to be called a legal right.

The treatment of the Privileges and Immunities under the war amendments is clear and comprehensive, and deserves special praise.

While Mr. Wise has given us here a useful and valuable work, it must be said that it leaves much to be desired, and that there is still room for a comprehensive text on the law of citizenship.

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